(d) the steps taken by the Government to revise the wages and D.A. of the employees w.e.f. the due date of revision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) In November, 1992 the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) declared Fertilizer Corporation India Ltd. (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) as sick companies. Being sick companies, according to Government guidelines for revision of pay and other allowances, including Dearness Allowance on revised scales, effective from 1.1.92, for employees other than unionised workers, FCI and HFC have to await final decision of the BIFR on their revival. The revival package so approved should include enhanced liability on proposed salary revision. For wage revision of workers, FCI and HFC are unable to meet the conditions in the guidelines for the purpose namely, no increase in labour cost per physical unit of output, internal generation of funds, etc. Government guidelines do not provide for any budgetary support to meet this enhanced liability for all categories of employees.

(d) The expert group constituted to reformulate revival packages for HFC and FCI (which were approved in principle by the Government in April, 1995) from the stand point of funding by financial institutions (FIs) has submitted its report. The reformulated revival packages for FCI and HFC would, *inter-alia*, include issues like extent and effective date for wage/salary revision.

[Translation]

Scrapping of Forest Act, 1980

4782. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals have been received by the Central Government for scrapping the Forest Act, 1980 because a number of works in the tribal areas have been held up due to this;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Freedom Fighters Pension

4783. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2649, dated March, 11, 1997 and state:

(a) the number of parents of Freedom Fighters getting Pension;

(b) whether there is any proposal to make changes in the rules aspecially when there is no possibility of the parents of Freedom Fighters being alive so far; and

(c) whether the Government consider the adopted persons and the dependent kins of such dead and unmarried freedom fighters eligible for getting pension or other assistance or facility whose age is fifity years now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : The question seems to refer to the reply given to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2469 for 11.3.1997.

(a) Powers have been delegated to the Pension Disbursing Authorities to transfer pension to eligible dependents. The information sought is not maintained at the Central level.

(b) and (c) No such proposal are under consideration of the Government at present.

Demand of Fertilizers

4784. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the requirement of 225 million tonnes of foodgrains in the country by the year 2002 a large quantity of fertilizers would be required;

(b) if so, the assistance made by the Government in this regard;

(c) the details of consumption of fertilizers during the last years; and

(d) the break up of quantity of indigenous and imported fertilizers required to meet the increased demand during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The Working Group on Fertilizers for the Ninth Five Year Plan, for a tentative food production target of 220 million tonnes, has made the following demand projections